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ABSTRACT

Recognizing the critical role that quality child care plays in the lives of working families, in children's health and development, and in the state economy, the Alaska Child Care Program promotes quality, affordable, and accessible child care for Alaska's children and families that allows parents to work or train for employment, and that supports child care providers as an integral part of the state and local economy. This annual report details the activities and accomplishments of that program for the period ending May 1999. The report describes the programs and services and relevant accomplishments in four component areas: (1) providing support for children and families to find and keep quality child care; (2) providing support for child care providers to build a stable workforce of competent, well-paid providers; (3) forming child care partnerships to develop a comprehensive system of child care programs and services; and (4) promoting quality child care environments through quality improvement initiatives, adequate program funding, and administration. The report concludes by noting significant changes for Alaska's child care programs, specifically that child care and other early childhood functions will be consolidated and moved to the state Department of Education. (KB)

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ANNUAL REPORT

for the period ending May 1999

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ALASKA Child Care PROGRAM

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STATE OF ALASKA
Department of Community and Regional Affairs

ALASKA Child Care PROGRAM

Annual Report

For the Period Ending May 1999

State of Alaska
Department of Community and Regional Affairs
Division of Community and Rural Development

This past year saw many new developments both nationally and at the state level in policies that affect families and children. Welfare reform, technological advances, program initiatives, and mounting concern for the social and economic stability of families and communities have all contributed to new directions for children's programs. In Alaska this is being translated into a review of existing policy and practice with long-term goals in mind. Among them are streamlined offices, renewed customer orientation, increased efficiency, enhanced data collection and analysis, and support for economic development of families, communities, and therefore the state.

This work, begun in SFY 1998, should produce results through implementation in the new millennium. This report presents the foundation for those anticipated changes.

Yvonne Chase

Yvonne Chase, Director
Division of Community and Rural Development

The Alaska Child Care Program

Parents are not the only caregivers for children.

Today, over half of all young children spend part or all or their day in child care homes or centers, preschools, or before and after school care programs. These out-of-home care environments play a critical role in the healthy growth and development of young children as well as the stability and well-being of working parents and the communities where they live.

During the last ten years, we have learned more about how young children grow and develop than ever before. We know that the daily experience's children receive during their early years play a critical role in their healthy growth and development and all future functioning. Children need to have safe, loving and secure environments both at home and in a child care setting. If children are spending a large part of their day in child care environments that have high staff turnover rates, are not stimulating and lacking in positive experiences, then critical time is being wasted. Children need and deserve quality care environments that are predictable, nurturing, consistent and enriched with competent, well-paid staff.

Quality care environments are not just critical for children, they are also important for working families. If parents cannot find and keep child care they can afford and trust; their employment, education or training activities can be compromised. Additionally, employers have found that poor child care situations contributes to lost workdays, lower employee productivity, higher job dissatisfaction and employee turnover rates.

Quality child care is not a luxury for working families. For families who have low incomes, or are enrolled in welfare to work programs, finding and keeping child care is a necessity. If parents cannot find accessible, affordable and appropriate child care, they cannot work or may be at-risk of losing federal or state benefits while they receive employment training and education.

The State of Alaska has, for many years, recognized the critical role quality child care has in the lives of working families, in the health and development of its children, and in the economy of the state. Alaska helps to promote quality child care for children and families through the State Child Care Office located in the Department of Community and Regional Affairs. *The overall goal of the Alaska Child Care Program is to promote quality, affordable, and accessible child care for Alaska's children and families that allows parents to work or train for employment, and that supports child care providers as an integral part of the state and local economy.*

This goal is supported through four primary components:

- Supporting working families, especially low-income working families, to find and keep quality child care through financial assistance programs, resource and referral, and training and education.
- Building a stable workforce of competent, well-paid child care providers that benefits all Alaskan families through training, education, career development, and licensing and monitoring.
- Developing a comprehensive system of child care programs and services by forming strong and meaningful partnerships with federal, Native, business, local government, professional associations, schools and non-profit organizations that have a vested interest in children and families.
- Promoting quality child care environments through quality improvement initiatives, adequate program funding and administration.

The following information briefly describes the programs and services in these four component areas.

Support for Children and Families

Alaska's Child Care Assistance Programs

In an ideal world, all parents would have the option of staying home with their children, especially when they are very young. But for most families this is not a realistic choice. Single and two-parent families with low or moderate incomes must work to cover even basic living expenses. Families that are enrolled in state or federal public assistance programs are required to participate in job training and education activities. For these families, the cost of child care is a critical factor. A family of four earning less than $2,000 a month can easily pay one-fourth of their income for child care; and parents who are in job training and receiving no wages, simply cannot pay the cost of care.

The purpose of Alaska's child care assistance programs is to help eligible families pay the cost of child care so they can work or continue in job training and education programs. **The State Child Care Office administers three important child care assistance programs:**

State Child Care Assistance

In 1975, the Alaska Legislature recognized the importance of assisting working families with child care costs by establishing the Day Care Assistance Program (DCAP). This long-standing program pays for part of the cost of child care for low and moderate income parents while they work, train for work, or seek work. In 1998, families in 28 communities throughout the state participated in DCAP.

Families that earn less than 85% of the state median income are eligible to apply for DCAP funds. The funds will pay a portion of a family's child care costs. Rates are determined by the families' income and child care provider rates, and may pay up to 97% of the cost of child care. The family co-pays the difference between the assistance rate and the child care provider's fee.

Almost fifteen years after the DCAP program was established, the federal government began to provide funds to states for child care assistance programs. Using the combination of federal and state dollars, the state is now able to assist most Alaskan families who qualify for child care assistance.

Federal Child Care Assistance Programs

Two sources of federal funding supplement the state's child care assistance program – Temporary Assistance to Needy Families and the Child Care and Development Fund. These federal funds are administered through a program called Parents Achieving Self-Sufficiency (PASS). There are three categories of service for families under the PASS Program:

Public Assistance Child Care - PASS I

Families who are enrolled in the state's welfare to work program, the Alaska Temporary Assistance Program (ATAP), are eligible to receive child care assistance while they are engaged in work or training activities. ATAP caseworkers determine family eligibility and assist parents in obtaining appropriate child care. This assistance program covers 100% of the cost of child care while parents have active public assistance cases and are administered by the Department of Health and Social Services.

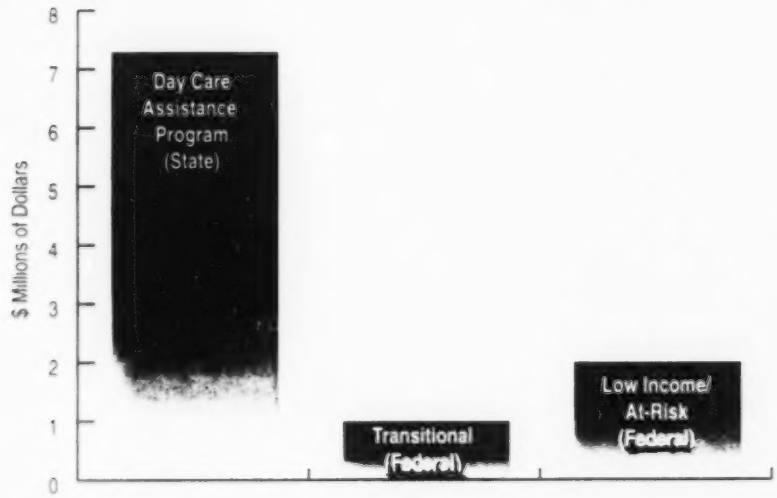
Transitional Child Care – PASS II

After parents have obtained employment and leave ATAP, they may be eligible for assistance with the cost of child care for 12 months. Transitional child care assistance is also available to teen parents working on high school degrees or equivalents. Families do not receive cash public assistance benefits, but are still eligible for medical benefits. Parents are required to co-pay a portion of their child care costs based on family income and caregiver charges. Transitional and At-Risk (described below) programs are federally funded and are administered by the State Child Care Office in the Department of Community and Regional Affairs.

At-Risk Child Care – PASS III

At-Risk program funds assist low and moderate income families who are actively employed, but are at-risk of returning to public assistance because the cost of child care exceeds their ability to pay. Eligibility is determined by family income and work status. Parents pay a portion of their child care fees based on family income.

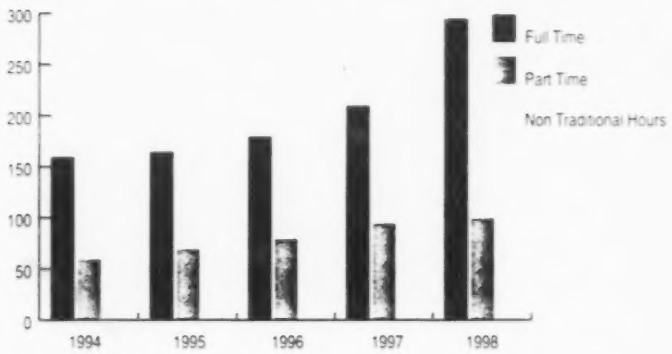
SFY 1998
Total Subsidy Expenditure by Funding Source



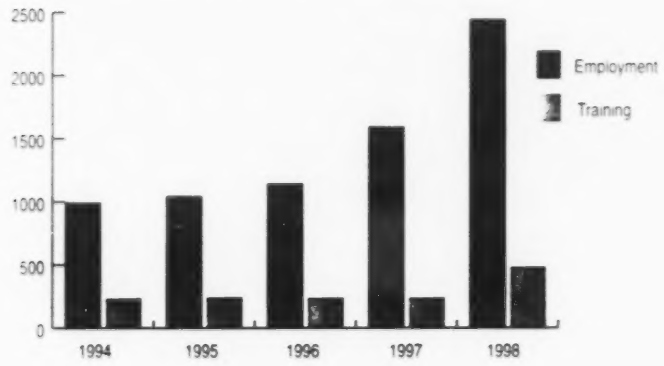
Child Care Resource and Referral Services for Parents

Cost is not the only concern that parents have about child care. Parents should also be able to select child care that is healthy and safe, has staff that are trained and competent, and where the child's daily experiences are meaningful and appropriate for the child's individual needs. Some parents may also need specialized situations for their child such as care for an infant or a child with disabilities. An increasing number of parents also need flexible child care opportunities if they work nights or weekends. Helping parents sort through their concerns and select care that is appropriate for their children and their work situations is another component of the State Child Care Office.

SFY 1994-1998
CCR&R Total Parent Requests by Hours Needed



SFY 1994-1998
CCR&R Total Parent Requests by Parent Activity



Parent support and referral services are offered through three Child Care Resource and Referral (CCR&R) grantees in Anchorage, Fairbanks, and Juneau. These grantees work directly with parents to provide information about quality child care; referrals to child care providers, and help with concerns or problems about child care. During 1998, the CCR&R grantees made over 5,000 parent referrals to child care providers, an increase of more than 60% over the prior year. Parent support services in smaller communities and rural areas of the state are available through the State Child Care Office in Anchorage. State and federal funding sources support the resource and referral services.

Support for Child Care Providers

A quality care environment is one that is predictable, nurturing, consistent and enriched with competent, caring providers. Factors that directly relate to quality care environments are: wage/salary and employee benefits providers receive; training, education and career opportunities available to them; public and private support for quality care; and regulation through licensing and monitoring of child care facilities.

Child care is one of the fastest growing occupations in the nation. It is also an occupation where workers have one of the lowest pay scales. The pay for a child care home provider, the largest group of care givers, averages about $14,000 a year nationwide. Usually a care giver's salary comes with no benefits like health insurance, retirement or paid annual leave. Additionally, providers must cover the cost of training, facilities maintenance, equipment and supplies through the fees paid by parents. The wages, benefits and working conditions that child care providers experience all contribute to another statistic that follows the child care occupation; a staff turnover rate that is higher than any other job category, except gas station attendants.

Alaska helps to support a workforce of competent child care providers and quality child care environments through training and career development, wage incentives, quality improvements, provider licensing, and monitoring of provider services. The programs and services that support providers include:

Child Care Grant Program

In 1981, Alaska approved the Child Care Grant Program for licensed providers who agreed to care for children whose families are receiving state or federal child care assistance. The focus of this program was to enhance those programs that cared for low-income children. Providers participating in the program were eligible to receive a small per child grant ($22 in FY98). Grant money can be used by a provider to purchase books and other educational materials, age-appropriate equipment for children, increase the quality of meals and snacks, purchase health or safety equipment, or increase salaries for staff. Although the grant amount is based on the number of subsidy children in care, the materials and supports provided by the grant benefited all children in care. In 1999, the state funding for this program was replaced with federal funds and in FY2000, these grants can no longer be restricted to licensed providers.

SFY 1998
Child Care Grant

Amount	No. of Grantees	Total Grant Amount	Avg. Children Per Month
Anchorage	194	$903,891	3,566
Bethel	1	$11,000	30
Cordova	1	$10,676	37
Craig	2	$5,327	20
Dillingham	1	$4,137	13
Fairbanks	61	$248,949	945
Glennallen	1	$3,423	12
Haines	2	$2,074	8
Healy	2	$3,589	12
Homer	10	$17,396	69
Juneau	28	$111,752	442
Kenai	10	$31,880	126
Ketchikan	11	$33,422	132
Kodiak	13	$38,343	138
Kotzebue	2	$13,256	31
Mat-Su	29	$134,150	529
Metlakatla	1	$994	4
Nome	1	$7,079	21
Petersburg	2	$10,009	39
Seward	3	$14,829	59
Sitka	14	$42,067	166
Skagway	2	$3,487	13
St. Paul	1	$4,373	13
Soldotna	6	$44,474	175
Unalaska	1	$4,177	12
Valdez	1	$10,965	39
Wrangell	2	$6,021	24
Total	**402**	**$1,721,740**	**6,675**

Community Care Licensing

Child care licensing is one element states can use to help assure an adequate supply of quality child care. Licensing can provide a legal authority for clear, reasonable and valid requirements for the provision of child care services, and for the monitoring and enforcement of the state's best practices for children. Alaska's Community Care Licensing regulations require providers to obtain a license if more than four children, unrelated to the caregiver, are in care. The Division of Family and Youth Services in the Department of Health and Social Services is responsible for licensing and monitoring child care facilities for all areas of the state, and contracts with the Municipality of Anchorage for licensing of child care centers within its boundaries.

Beginning in 1998, the number of parents who needed child care as a result of welfare reform increased, as did the number of families who were eligible to receive federal child care assistance. Federal child care programs require that parents be granted "parental choice" - the option to choose child care that is appropriate for their individual needs. Many parents began to select or recruit providers who are exempt from licensing under the state child care regulations. Exempt providers are those who care for four or fewer unrelated children with no more than eight total children in care. As a result, during 1998, the number

of licensed providers decreased 9.5%; a significant loss of regulated child care providers.

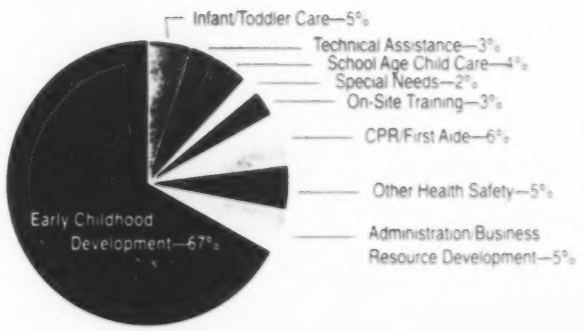
Federal assistance programs do not require providers to be licensed by the state, but do require any provider who cares for subsidy children to meet minimum health and safety requirements. Because the state was faced with a growing category of exempt providers over which they had no regulatory authority, Alaska developed a "Child Care Registry" system as a formalized first step to regulate providers who are willing to care for subsidy children. Registered providers must agree to maintain the minimum health and safety standards mandated by the federal programs. As of this date, the Registry does not give the state authority to conduct on-site monitoring, set standards for provider training or education, or evaluate the quality of care a child is receiving. However, during the next year, the State Child Care Office will be evaluating the state's licensing regulations, identifying quality improvements, and how those improvements can be implemented.

SFY 1998
Licensed and Exempt Providers

Training and Technical Assistance

One of the most cost-effective ways to improve the quality of child care is through child care provider training and technical assistance. Quality set-aside funds mandated by federal child care block grants are used regionally to provide group training, individual training, and technical assistance for child care providers. During FY 98, child care providers attended training activities that included training in health/safety, CPR/first aid, special needs/infant toddler/school age care, early childhood development and business/resource development.

SFY 1998
RD Participation by Training Catagory



Training is provided through the Resource and Referral Grantees, state early childhood professional associations, the University of Alaska and various conferences and professional meetings. CCR&R grantees have coordinated local training with Alaska Native Organizations, and Head Start. The southeast CCR&R grantee, in coordination with the Annenberg/ Corporation for Public Broadcasting Project, organized a statewide distance delivery training video series entitled The Whole Child. The following table shows the volume of training supported through the State Child Care Office.

SFY 1998
CAREGIVER RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT

Community	Training Units*	Individual Reimbursement**4	Estimated Total Expenditure
Anchorage	1818	477	$247,860
Bethel	24	8	3,456
Cordova	22	3	2,700
Craig	42	11	5,724
Dillingham	24	6	3,240
Fairbanks	968	216	127,872
Glennallen	10	0	1,080
Haines	7	5	1,296
Healy	0	3	324
Homer	69	16	9,180
Juneau	758	96	92,232
Kenai/Soldotna	149	14	17,604
Ketchikan	84	7	9,828
King Cove	8	0	864
Kodiak	126	9	14,580
Kotzebue	11	8	2,052
Matanuska-Susitna	516	30	58,968
Metlakatla	7	0	756
Petersburg	34	23	6,156
Sand Point	27	0	2,916
Seward	68	10	8,424
Sitka	113	41	16,632
Skagway	5	2	756
St. Paul	4	5	972
Thorne Bay	0	3	324
Unalaska	59	6	7,020
Valdez	24	4	3,024
Wrangell	12	8	2,160
Total	**4989**	**1011**	**$648,000**
Avg. Cost/Training Unit			**$114**
Avg. Cost/Reimbursement			**$78**

* One training unit is one caregiver attending one training activity; a caregiver may attend more than one training activity per year.

** One individual reimbursement reflects payment to one caregiver for 75% of the cost of allowable training and related expenses.

4 Direct service; does not include administrative costs.

Child Care Partnerships

A comprehen-ive child care program is not just the responsibility of one state department or one funding source. There are many other partners that have an interest in the well being of children. They include: **The Alaska Department of Health and Social Services, Divisions of Public Assistance (DPA), Family and Youth Services (DFYS), and Public Health (DPH).**

The DPA and the State Child Care Office jointly develop the state's child care plan. As the administrator for child care benefits for families engaged in welfare to work activities, DPA also works closely with child care Local Administrators to make sure the transition from public assistance to transitional and at-risk child care subsidies is efficient and timely for working families.

The DFYS has had lead responsibility for child care licensing through their Community Care Licensing Regulations. They play a crucial role in helping child care providers obtain licenses and monitoring child care facilities for the state.

The health and safety of children is a concern that reaches across departmental boundaries. Staff from the State Child Care Office participated in early planning efforts for the Alaska's child health insurance program – **Denali KidCare.** This program extends health insurance benefits to children whose parents make too much money to qualify for federal health programs and too little money to afford private health insurance. Information about the health program is available through all of the child care programs administrative offices, grantees and is include in consumer education materials.

The State Child Care Office has also worked with **Public Health Nursing** to develop a pilot project to hire a public health nurse coordinator who will work with child care providers, staff and other departments to address health issues related to children in care.

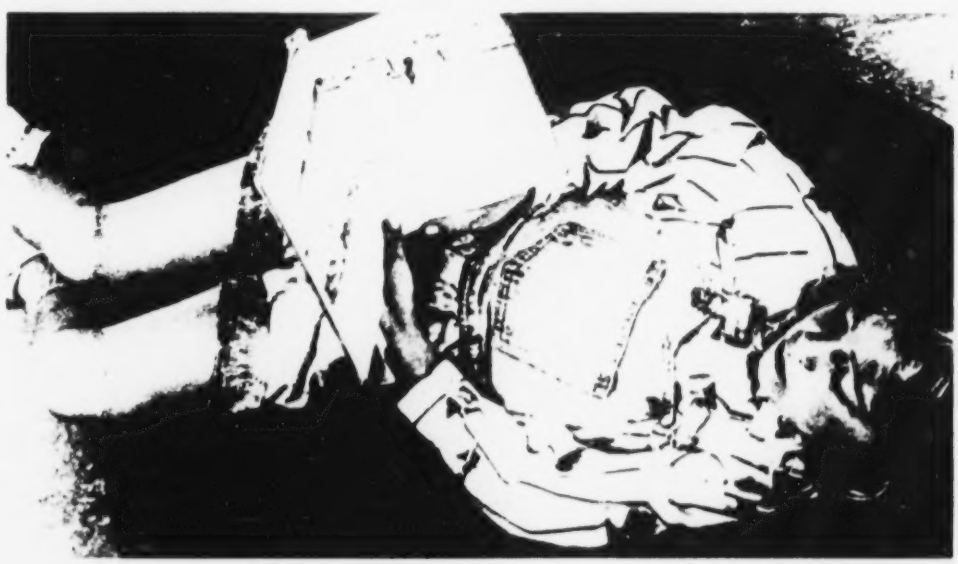
Alaska Native organizations receive direct federal Child Care Development Fund block grants to support work and training programs for their members. Alaska Tribal Grantees, as well as the state, are required to coordinate the services provided to families. Information and resources are shared between local Tribal and state grantees to provide for a full range of services to all eligible families within their communities.

Federal Child Care and Adult Food Program grants are available to both licensed and exempt child care providers. Providers can receive valuable training, technical assistance and support from the nutrition program sponsors who are required to make at least three on-site visits a year to participating providers. Services include training and technical assistance in menu planning, food preparation and safety, and a per meal subsidy to help pay for the cost of food and snacks served to children in their care. This partnership has also allowed expanded opportunities for federal food program sponsors to provide enhanced training, educational materials and other supports for child care providers in conjunction with food program meetings and regular facility visits.

The **Child Support Enforcement Division** in the Department of Labor helps parents collect child support payments. Many families who are participating in child care assistance programs are single parents who are not receiving child support from an absentee parent. For some families, these payments can mean the difference between being self-supporting continuing to rely on child care or other assistance programs. The State Child Care Office helps to inform parents about child support services through parent newsletters, during application interviews and renewal applications. In addition, they are also participating in a pilot project in Southeast Alaska with Head Start and Child Support Enforcement. A caseworker works through Head Start and child care local administrators to meet with parents and assist them in applying for child support.

Head Start programs in Alaska offer numerous partnership opportunities with local grantees. Community Head Start programs provide training and work opportunities for parents enrolled in welfare to work programs. A new national Head Start expansion plan allows local programs to expand existing part-day programs to full-day, so children do not have to move from one program to another to accommodate their parents work schedules. During FY 98, the Division of Public Assistance and Head Start extended training and technical assistance activities to child care providers at a rural site where training opportunities are limited. The success of this effort led to a formal partnership between Child Care Resource and Referral grantees and the Head Start Quality Improvement Center in Anchorage. This effort will result in shared training, joint regional and state planning for training opportunities, and stronger coordination between Head Start and child care staff.

The **Alaska Job Center Network** and State Child Care Office staff have developed guidelines for onsite child care services in Alaska's job centers throughout the state. As a result of this partnership, the availability of space for on-site child care has been used as a formal evaluation factor when considering potential job site centers. Additionally, the Juneau Child Care Resource and Referral Grantee office is co-located with the Juneau One Stop, allowing parents to easily access job, work training and work search, vocational rehabilitation, public assistance, and child care services all in one facility.



Promoting Quality Child Care Environments

Assistance with child care costs, a stable and competent work force, and strong partnerships all support quality child care environments for children. Additional important supports for quality care are the systems that regulate, develop policy, plan and administer services, inform the public, and fund child care. The State Child Care Office is actively involved in quality initiatives that affect systems change. Following is a brief description of current child care quality improvement initiatives.

Consumer Education

Federal Child Care block grant funds require each state to devote a small portion of their grant to consumer education. These funds are dedicated to providing training and education about quality child care to parents and caregivers, businesses, elected officials, the general public and others. The State Child Care Office has produced educational materials, participated in community events, co-sponsored training and education activities, and helped to promote nationwide campaigns that support quality early care and education programs for children.

Early Years, Critical Years, Implications of Brain Research on Early Childhood Policy and Practice in Alaska

In September 1999, Alaska convened the first statewide conference dedicated to children age birth through three. The conference focused on current research and findings about early brain development and how young children learn. Over 600 participants attended the three day conference, which featured national experts in the field of neuroscience, child development, child care and early learning. The State Child Care Office participated as a core member of the conference steering committee to help plan and develop the conference. This current research about early childhood development presented at the conference has important implications for child care. As a follow-up to the conference, additional training events have been planned and conference proceedings were published that contain an entire section of recommendations for future policy and practice in Alaska.

Alaska Partners for Quality Early Care and Education

The Alaska Partners is a comprehensive project guided by a central steering committee of 25 members that represent all facets of early childhood programs in the state. The Partners project has developed a comprehensive career development framework for the field of early care and education. State Child Care Office staff have supported the Partners work as a member of the steering committee during the planning and development of the project. During 1999, the Alaska Partners will begin implementation of project components.

Child Care Subsidy Pilot Project

The current system of paying providers on behalf of parents for subsidized child care does not conform to typical provider billing practices. It requires caregivers to use the state's payment cycle and to submit additional documentation for children whose care is paid by state or federal funds. It has created hardships for both participating parents and providers through burdensome documentation and delays. This pilot project will test more flexible locally controlled pre-payment systems in three communities. Subsidy checks are issued to parents at the beginning of the month, so payment can be made in a caregiver's regular billing cycle. Methods for parent application and renewal are expanded to accommodate

family schedules. The pilot project will be evaluated in FY 2000 for continuation and expansion into other communities.

Infant/Toddler Capacity Building

This year, a pilot project was developed to increase the number of child care providers who were trained to care for infants and toddlers. Participating providers agreed to add at least one infant or toddler to their program, and in return received grants for necessary start-up costs and to offset the high cost of providing this individualized care. Providers also agreed to complete specialized training about caring for infants and toddlers. Infant/toddler, school age, disabilities, short-term illness, and non-traditional work schedule child care facilities are in short supply nationwide, and in the state. This pilot project was funded by federal grant money and is intended to relieve the shortage in qualified infant/toddler care.

Child Care Student Intern

The University of Alaska, Anchorage and the State Child Care Office offer an internship for graduate social work students. The internship placement in child care provides an opportunity for students to conduct research, understand state fiscal planning and management, engage in policy analysis, and track federal and state legislation.

Child Care Management Information System (CCMIS)

In 1998, the State Child Care Office began the process of developing a new management information system to accommodate federal reporting requirements for tracking individual parents and children. The new reporting system upgraded technology and simplified reporting and record keeping. The system will be in place at all Local Administrator offices, as well as in the State Child Care Office. Local Administrators have received new hardware and Internet access for sharing information with other administrators and child care providers.

Alaska Inclusion Project

The Alaska IN project is a three year federal grant through the Department of Health and Social Services, Section of Maternal Child Health. This project will document the need for, and increase the availability of child care for children with special health care needs and developmental disabilities. During the first year of the grant, activities have focused on determining the child care needs of children and families, and the current condition of child care programs in providing inclusive settings. An action plan was developed during the second year of the grant. Its completion marked the beginning of the project's transition from assessment and planning to implementation of activities. The third year of the grant will provide direct education and training services to child care providers and families.

Head Start Collaboration Mini-Grants

The Alaska Head Start State Collaboration Grant and State Child Care Office funded and developed a mini-grant program to increase training opportunities and improve the quality of early care and education programs in the State. These mini-grants were offered through a competitive bid process to providers, trainers and other early childhood organizations for one year. In 1998, eight projects from seven Alaskan communities were awarded Mini-Grants. These grants have provided a wide array of opportunities for providers, staff, teachers, and administrators to receive valuable training.

Child Care Program Administration

Alaska is a diverse state with families living in communities that vary from remote rural villages to large urban areas. Regardless of where they live, eligible families can receive child care assistance through a system of service delivery that meets their individual needs. In 28 communities throughout the state, Local Administrator grantees are responsible for meeting with parents, determining their eligibility for program assistance, helping them locate appropriate child care, processing parent and provider paperwork, and issuing subsidy payments to parents and providers.

In smaller communities where there are no Local Administrators, the State Child Care Office in Anchorage offers Distance Delivery services. Distance delivery this year offered state and federal subsidies by phone, fax, and mail to parents in rural communities of Aniak, Barrow, Delta Junction, Dillingham, Glennallen, and Unalaska. "Remote Rural" distance delivery also served parents in the following communities where only license exempt care was used: Clear, Chitina, Healy, Hydaburg, Kaktovik, Kivalina, Kwethluk, Mountain Village, and Toksook Bay.

During SFY 1998, the State Child Care Office distributed over 13 million dollars in 37 communities throughout Alaska.

SFY 1998 Child Care Subsidy
Number Served and Total Expenditures*

	Average # of Children per Month	Average # of Families perMonth	Total Expenditures	Average Expenditure per Child per Year
Anchorage	1910	1318	$6,706,923.29	$3,511.92
Bethel	10	8	$38,944.08	$3,799.44
Cordova	14	9	$46,523.08	$3,425.04
Craig	5	4	$19,423.98	$3,950.64
Fairbanks	793	523	$2,039,042.15	$2,571.84
Haines	9	7	$21,076.28	$2,363.64
Homer	73	47	$231,242.99	$3,182.28
Juneau	214	138	$757,724.26	$3,539.40
Kenai-Soldotna	222	142	$665,843.42	$3,004.92
Ketchikan	81	50	$256,866.67	$3,171.24
Kodiak	99	63	$325,103.08	$3,283.92
Kotzebue	14	10	$55,443.13	$4,032.24
Mat-Su	436	267	$1,323,362.66	$3,032.28
Metlakatla	12	8	$28,550.67	$2,299.44
Nome	7	6	$18,945.48	$2,739.12
Petersburg	16	11	$43,225.04	$2,788.68
Seward	31	22	$ 81,870.60	$2,633.88
Sitka	73	49	$210,012.96	$2,867.04
Skagway	9	7	$30,826.41	$3,362.88
Valdez	23	15	$77,114.68	$3,414.72
Wrangell	10	7	$33,952.37	$3,512.28
Distance Delivery	18	12	$48,026.28	$2,668.13
Total	4079	2723	$13,060,043.56	$3,143.41

** Direct subsidy only; does not include administrative costs.*

Program Funding

Alaska's comprehensive child care system is funded with a combination of state and federal dollars. In SFY 98, the budget for programs administered by the State Child Care Office totaled $25,741,341.

SFY 1998
CHILD CARE BUDGET

	State	Federal	Total
Child Care Direct Subsidies			
Day Care Assistance Program	$9,394,901		$9,394,901
PASS 1		$7,864,200*	$7,864,200
PASS 2		$2,153,347	$2,153,347
PASS 3		$3,285,001	$3,285,001
Subtotal	**$9,394,901**	**$13,302,548**	**$22,697,449**
Quality Enhancement			
Child Care Grants	$1,721,740		$1,721,740
CCR&R Grants	$178,843	$747,734	$926,577
Exempt Caregiver Training		$184,575 Σ	$184,575
Child Care Licensing Support		$180,000 Π	$180,000
Alaska Inclusion Project		$6,000 *	$6,000
Head Start Collaboration Mini-Grants		$25,000	$25,000
Subtotal	**$1,900,583**	**$1,143,309**	**$3,043,892**
TOTAL	**$11,295,484**	**$14,445,857**	**$25,741,341**

*Administered by the Alaska Department of Health & Social Services, Division of Public Assistance

Child Care & Development Fund (CCDF), DHSS Division of Public Assistance to DCRA CCP
Σ Child Care & Development Block Grant (CCDBG), direct to DCRA CCP
Π Child Care & Development Fund (CCDF), DHSS Division of Public Assistance to DHSS DFYS
* Child Care & Development Fund (CCDF), DHSS Division of Public Assistance to grantee
Child Care & Development Fund (CCDF), DHSS Division of Public Assistance to DCRA Head Start

During, 1999, the State Child Care Office will continue the administration of state and federal funds. Following are the budget allocations for the State Fiscal Year 1999.

SFY 1999
CHILD CARE BUDGET

	State	Federal	Total
Child Care Direct Subsidies			
Day Care Assistance	$4,123,742	$3,000,000	$7,123,742
PASS I		12,051,500	12,051,500
PASS II		3,276,302	3,276,302
PASS III		8,418,517	8,418,517
Subtotal	**$4,123,742.00**	**$26,746,319**	**$30,870,061**
Quality Enhancement			
Child Care Grants	$1,725,100		$1,725,100
CCR&R Grants	790, 000		790,000
Alaska Inclusion Project	200,000		200,000
Head Start Collaboration Mini-Grants			
School Age Child Care		40,000	
Infant/Toddler Grants		98,195	
Early Years Critical Years Conference		11,025	
USDA Food Program		80,000	
Sub- Total	**$2,715,100**	**$229,220,00**	**$2,944,320**
TOTAL	**$6,838,842,00**	**$26,975,539,00**	**$33,814,381**

Looking Ahead . . .

As we move toward the year 2000, significant and progressive changes are in store for Alaska's Child Care Programs. For a number of years, child care programs and services have been located in two separate state departments: Health and Social Services and Community and Regional Affairs. Administration of child care services has been shared between these two departments. This cooperative approach has been successful, but has required careful collaboration and planning. In April of 1999, planning efforts began to merge child care and other early childhood functions into one state department. During the summer of 1999, child care programs and services will be consolidated and moved to the Department of Education. Specific child care programs that will be consolidated include: child care licensing and monitoring, the Lead Agency responsibility for the Child Care Development Fund block grant, administration for federal and state child care assistance programs, the child care grant program, and training and technical assistance administration. The State Child Care Office will join Head Start, preschool, kindergarten through grade three public school programs, the Children's Cabinet and Alaska Children's Trust, in the expanded Department of Education and Early Development.